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**DALLAS AREA RESIDENTS INDICTED ON FEDERAL CHARGES
FOR SELLING FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced today that a federal indictment charging six individuals from the Dallas area with charges related to selling fraudulent identification documents has been unsealed. Esmeralda Vidal, a/k/a Esmeralda Cavello, Maria Guadalupe Luna, and Lupe Luna, "Lupe"; Emily Young, Jackie Cavello Rodriguez, Robertine Gonzales, a/k/a "Tina"; Rosa Jaimez Martinez, a/k/a "Maria"; and John Gilbert Cavello were all charged with one count of conspiracy to transfer false identification documents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028. Esmeralda Vidal was also charged with three counts of transferring false identification documents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028 (a)(2) and 2.

Defendants Vidal, Young, Rodriguez, Martinez and Cavello were arrested on March 3, 2005 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Defendant Gonzales remains a fugitive. Defendants Vidal, Young, Rodriguez, Martinez and Cavello have been released on personal recognizance bonds and are scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Paul D. Stickney, United States Magistrate Judge.

According to the indictment, beginning in November 2004, the defendants conspired to sell false identification documents, including birth certificates, Social Security cards, Texas drivers' licenses and passports to illegal aliens and others for their

use or the use of their family members and friends who were illegal aliens. Vidal directed the operation and she, along with Emily Young, solicited potential buyers directly or by word of mouth. Potential buyers were promised authentic identification documents and were typically required to pay in advance of receipt of the documents. The indictment alleges that most of the activity, including the offers to sell the documents, the receipt of the moneys for the documents, and the delivery of some of the documents, took place at 202 W. Cherry, Duncanville, Texas, believed to be the residence of one or more of the defendants. In many instances, however, moneys were paid but no documents were actually delivered and those that were delivered were false. According to the indictment, from November 5, 2004 through November 30, 2004, Vidal, Young, and Rodriguez, either singly or jointly, received more than \$30,000 from various persons for Social Security cards and/or birth certificates.

An indictment is an accusation by a federal grand jury and a defendant is entitled to the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty.

"Anyone who distributes fraudulent identity documents is potentially threatening the security of this nation," said Kenneth W. Cates, special agent-in-charge of the Dallas Office of Investigations in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). "Our ICE special agents will do everything possible to identify, investigate and promote prosecuting these document vendors who haphazardly and carelessly put us all in danger," Cates continued.

United States Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sarah Saldaña.

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